



# Rabies

## Protect yourself, your family & your pets

Recently, there has been an increase of rabies found in wild animals in the area. Several foxes found in the Mt. Elden trail system and in other locations around Flagstaff and Sedona have tested positive for rabies. Skunks found in these areas have also tested positive for the disease.

To help reduce the risk of exposure to rabies and to protect people and pets, the Coconino County Health Department recommends the following precautions:

### **Avoid any wild animals.**

People who feed or handle wild animals, and pets coming into contact with wild animals, risk possible exposure to rabies. Teach children not to handle or touch sick or injured animals.

### **State law requires that dogs be leashed and kept from running at large.**

This includes dogs on the Forest Service trail system. If hiking with a dog, keep it on a leash no more than six feet in length. Do not let your dog wander freely on the trails.

### **Have your pet vaccinated against rabies.**

Arizona State law requires all dogs to be properly vaccinated and licensed. It is also strongly recommended that cats be vaccinated against rabies. Vaccinations are available at local veterinarians or at periodically scheduled CCHD Rabies Vaccination Clinics.

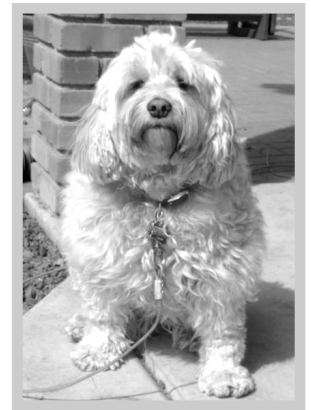
### **If you are bitten by a fox or other wild animal, immediately go to the hospital and inform the staff of your situation.**

The hospital staff will contact the appropriate agency to collect the animal. Try to give specific directions to the agency investigator to ensure they can locate the animal.



### **Report any unusual behavior.**

If you notice a wild animal behaving strangely, call the Health Department at 928-679-8756. After hours call the Sheriff's Department at 928-774-4523 immediately. Be sure to give very specific directions to the person taking your information and a contact number so the officer can contact you.



### **How do I know if an animal has rabies?**

The first sign of rabies is usually a change in the animal's behavior. Animals may act more aggressive or more tame than usual. Nocturnal animals like skunks, foxes and bats may be out during the day. Rabid animals may stagger, tremble, or seem weak. Bats may be found on the ground, unable to fly. Rabid animals may appear agitated and excited or paralyzed and frightened. Sometimes, rabid animals do not show any signs of illness before death from rabies. Thus, contact with wild animals should always be avoided.



Visit [www.coconino.az.gov/health](http://www.coconino.az.gov/health) or call Coconino County Health Department Animal Management at (928) 679-8756 for more information.